AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (original): A method for preparing a material in a batch process by throwing in a raw material and feeding the prepared material to a following downstream process, the method comprising steps of:

calculating a necessary amount of the material for the following process; and

allocating the calculated amount of the material to following predetermined number of batches if the calculated necessary amount is less than a predetermined amount, an allocated amount being equal to or more than a minimum amount one batch process can treat.

2. (original): A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the predetermined amount is less than three times a standard amount one batch process treats and the predetermined number of batches is three.

3. – 12. (canceled).

13. (previously presented): A system for preparing one or more materials in a batch process for use in a following downstream process, the system comprising:

means for calculating a necessary amount of the material for the following process; and

means for allocating the calculated amount of the material to following predetermined number of batches if the calculated necessary amount is less than a predetermined amount.

14. (previously presented): A system according to claim 13, further comprising:

a plurality of chemical liquid preparation lines, each of which includes:

one or more multi-purpose primary chemical liquid preparation vessels;

one or more multi-purpose chemical liquid stock vessel each of which is connected to each of the multi-purpose primary chemical liquid preparation vessels;

one or more chemical liquid measuring device each of which is connected to each of the multi-purpose chemical liquid stock vessels;

a single secondary chemical liquid preparation vessel; and

piping connected to the chemical liquid measuring devices to feed the chemical liquid in the chemical liquid stock vessels to the single secondary chemical liquid preparation vessel;

whereby a required change of the chemical liquid can be made by replacing the chemical liquid in each of the vessels with new ones without affecting another chemical liquid preparation line in changing prescription for the following downstream process.

15. (previously presented): A batch system as claimed in claim 14, wherein each of the numbers of the multi-purpose primary chemical liquid preparation vessels and the multi-purpose chemical liquid stock vessels in each chemical liquid preparation lines is equal to an expected maximum number of the single chemical liquid feeding lines to be used.

16. (previously presented): A batch system as claimed in claim 14, further comprising:

a common chemical liquid preparation vessel for preparing common chemical liquid used in the plural chemical liquid preparation lines;

a common chemical liquid stock vessel connected to the common chemical liquid preparation vessel; and

piping connected to the common chemical liquid stock vessel with branches for feeding the common chemical liquid into each of the secondary chemical liquid preparation vessels.

17. (canceled).

18. (new): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the calculated necessary amount is calculated before preparing a next batch in the batch process.

19. (new): The system according to claim 13, wherein the means for calculating the necessary amount calculates the necessary amount before preparing a next batch in the batch process.

20. (new): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein if the calculated necessary amount is not less than the predetermined amount, the method further comprising:

allocating an adjusted amount of the material based on the calculated necessary amount and the predetermined amount to the following predetermined number of batches.

21. (new): The system according to claim 13, wherein if the means for allocating the calculated amount determines that the calculated necessary amount is not less than the predetermined amount, the means for allocating allocates an adjusted amount of the material based on the calculated necessary amount and the predetermined amount to the following predetermined number of batches.